International operations from Bangalore Airport

1363. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the foreign airlines which have requested to fly from Bangalore International Airport; and

(b) whether Government have considered their request, if so, the names of the Airlines which have been permitted to fly from Bangalore in the next one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The designated airlines of Sri Lanka, Malayasia, Gulf Air Owning States, Hong Kong, Germany and Sinpore have been granted access to Bangalore on receipt of request from the concerned countries. At present Lufthansa, Malayasian Airlines, Royal Nepal Airlines and Sri Lankan Airlines are operating out of Bangalore. Separate capacity entitlement for operating to Bangalore will also become available to the designated airlines of Singapore from Summer, 2003. The Government of UK had also shown interest for Bangalore, but the same is not presently available to their designated carrier.

Shortage of Gliders

1364. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the country is facing acute shortage of gliders for training at Gliding clubs in India, particularly Delhi Gliding Club;

(b) whether Govenment are aware that one Ardhar Glider, which is being manufactured at the Technical Centre of the Director General of Civil Aviation for the last fifteen years has not been completed so far, if so, the reasons for this long delay; and

(c) by when the Ardhara glider is likely to be test-flown?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION(SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, sir. There is no shortage of gliders for training at Gliding Clubs in India including Delhi Gliding Club.

(b) and (c) The fabrication work of 3rd Proto-type of Aradhara Glider which was taken up, on regular basis, in 1998 has since been completed.

The work on Ardhara glider got delayed due to non-availability of quality spruce wood and plywood, as well as engagement of concerned officials of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in designing and developing of a two-seater training aircraft. Since the Delhi Safdarjung Airport is closed for security considerations, this Proto-type will have to be taken to another gliding club for carrying out test flights. In view of the logistics involved, the Ardhara glider is not likely to be test flown before June, 2003.

Emergency check in Boeing Aircrafts

1365. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Asian Age of September 15, 2002, that the US and the Aussies Airlines have ordered grounding and checking of the entire Boeing fleets to see if they suffer from potentially defective flight control modules that could make the planes hard to contol;

(b) if so, whether Government have also caused similar emergency checks on all the Boeings in operation with the Indian Airlines Corporation and also with the private airlines operating in and through-out India, if so, the results thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) declared airworthiness directive issued by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on 13th September, 2002 mandatory for compliance of all Boeing Operators which include Indian Airlines, Alliance Air, Jet Airways, Sahara Airlines and Blue Dart Aviation. Jet Airways identified two Boeing 737 whose Flight Control Modules (FCMs) were affected and the same were replaced on September 14, 2002. All other operators have confirmed that the FCMs of their respective boeing 737 services aircraft are not affected.

Maintenance of Airports

1366. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fresh review has been made to assess the maintenance needs and improvements required at various airports in the country;